

THE VERB

11a A verb is a word that expresses an action or a state of being.

Every sentence has a verb. The verb says something about the subject.

EXAMPLES The parakeet flew through the room. [action]

Are the Castros from Puerto Rico? [state of being]



REFERENCE NOTE: For more about subjects and verbs, see pages 83–93.

11b An action verb is a verb that expresses physical or mental action.

EXAMPLES I am washing the dishes.

Harriet memorized most of her lines that weekend.

EXERCISE 1 Identifying Action Verbs

The subject is italicized in each of the following sentences. Underline the action verb that tells what the subject does.

- EX. 1. *I am* swam across the Nile River.
1. The *librarian* showed us the reference section.
 2. In other words, *I* like Chinese food.
 3. *We* ran on the track during gym class.
 4. In December, postal *workers* deliver many packages.
 5. *My stomach* ached.
 6. On my birthday, *I* go to the bowling alley.
 7. *Myra* jumped over the old brown dog.
 8. Queen *bees* hibernate in winter.
 9. *We* measured the plank four times.
 10. *Ms. Merlot* dropped her change purse.
 11. *Many* of the continents touch each other.
 12. After January, *Jody* was not a member of the CD and tape club.
 13. *I* went to my room after supper.

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14. The *audience* stood during the encore.
15. *I* painted the living room.
16. *Toby* presented a new book to the library.
17. *She* rode towards the woods.
18. *Chester* brushes his hair often.
19. *Lynn* kicked three goals on Saturday.
20. *Mother* bought a new computer for us.

EXERCISE 2 Writing Sentences with Action Verbs

Choose five verbs from the group below. Use each verb to write a sentence. You may use different tenses of the verb. Underline the verbs in your sentences.

EX. write

1. Grigor wrote a letter to his grandfather in Vladivostok.

remember	laugh	enjoy
watch	remove	open
carry	construct	sing
sweep	kick	believe

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

NOUNS

10a A *noun* is a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea.

Persons	brother, Tom Ross, jury, sisters
Places	county, Hawaii, house, river
Things	boat, Korean War, dog, pencil
Ideas	courage, freedom, joy, peace



Nouns that are made up of more than one word, like *Aki Sakamoto*, *Bunker Hill Monument*, and *living room*, are counted as one noun.

10b A *proper noun* names a particular person, place, thing, or idea. It always begins with a capital letter. A *common noun* names any one of a group of persons, places, things, or ideas. It is not capitalized.

Proper Nouns	Common Nouns
Aunt Mary	woman
India	country
<i>Newsweek</i>	magazine
Boston Bruins	team



REFERENCE NOTE: For more about capitalizing proper nouns, see pages 227–235.

EXERCISE 1 Identifying Common and Proper Nouns

Underline the nouns in the following sentences. On the line before each sentence, write *comm.* for a *common noun* or *prop.* for a *proper noun*. If there is more than one noun in a sentence, separate your answers with a semicolon.

- EX prop.; comm. 1. Jeremy always takes the early bus.
 _____ 1. Janell belongs to a group that studies the environment.
 _____ 2. In the myth, Theseus killed the Minotaur.
 _____ 3. The ancient Egyptians built pyramids in the desert.

- _____ 4. Tariq comes from Bangladesh.
 _____ 5. The Cherokee were forced to leave their traditional homelands.
 _____ 6. Joseph told me about the African American celebration Kwanzaa.
 _____ 7. I would not have wanted to run into that *Tyrannosaurus Rex*!
 _____ 8. My family loves to celebrate Thanksgiving every year.
 _____ 9. Today's paper printed a review of *Homeward Bound*.
 _____ 10. Senator Inouye stated his views during the interview.

EXERCISE 2 Substituting Proper Nouns for Common Nouns

On the lines after each sentence below, revise the sentence by substituting a proper noun for the common noun in italics. You may need to change or delete some of the other words in the sentence. You may also make up proper names.

EX. 1. My *grandmother* teaches people how to use computers.

Clara Kardon teaches people how to use computers.

1. That famous basketball *player* scored many points in his career. _____
 2. That *river* is famous in United States history. _____
 3. My best *friend* knows how to make me feel good about myself. _____
 4. My favorite *author* writes entertaining stories about young people. _____
 5. We will study that foreign *country* in social studies next year. _____